

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 24, 1870, with transcript

Home, May 24th, 1870. My dear Aleck,

Today's news is indeed very bitter. I write to you in case Mamma should be off in the morning with Melly. I telegraphed to her this forenoon. If they are still at Morningside, you may keep this letter from Melly by telling him it is only on business. How full of regret is the thought that this woeful climax might perhaps have been averted by timely self-knowledge on Melly's part and abandonment of business for the sake of health. Can it be that it is now too late? Is there no room for hope? Perhaps the change of air to London may itself do some good and leave hydropathy a chance.

They might break the journey at York if there is any fear of his being injured by the long ride; but I think it would be more advisable to come right on and get the travelling over as soon as possible.

Be careful of yourself like a dear fellow. Think of Mamma and strive to be to her all that she has lost and seems in danger of again losing. God help us all. It is an awful trial. In the meantime there is life, and therefore something of a kind of hope.

I shall not send this off till the last moment in case there should be a telegram as to tomorrow's proceedings.

Give my dear love to Carrie, and of course to Melly & Mamma if they are not away.

I wish it were possible for me to be in two places at once and I should be with you but my joining you now is out of the question. All that can be done at present is to arrange for his

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removal and that you can manage. With pillows in a cab to the station, and a bed in the train, I think he will make the journey without fatigue.

You can of course take charge of Master Gillies and we shall manage to put him up here.

Again, don't you go fretting & worrying yourself into an illness. O, be careful, for our sakes.

Your affectionate father Alex Melville Bell.